

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
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SUBJECT: JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT WITH INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 155141, B. STATE 146479, C. TOKYO 5857

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER ASAMI CALLED JUNE 20 ON INDO-
CHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM UNIT CHIEF BROH-KAHN TO DISCUSS U.S.
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POLICY REGARDING REFUGEES LANDED IN JAPAN BY NORWEGIAN AND
GREEK SHIPS AFTER GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES GAVE JAPAN
ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT ALL REFUGEES NOT ACCEPTED
BY OTHER COUNTRIES. ASAMI WAS BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON U.S.
POLICY UNDER NEW 25,000 LRP, AS DESCRIBED REF A.

2. HE WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT WE HOPED JAPAN FOR HUMANI-

TARIAN REASONS, WOULD PROVIDE TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO REFUGEES ON ANY SHIPS ARRIVING IN JAPAN. SO FAR, JAPAN HAS INSISTED ON OBTAINING GUARANTEE FROM COUNTRY OF REGISTRY OF SHIP THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT ALL REFUGEES NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF IT COULD OBTAIN SUCH GUARANTEES, BUT IN CASE SOME SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS LIBERIA WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH GUARANTEES, WE HOPED THAT JAPAN WOULD ACCEPT INSTEAD ASSURANCES BY UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE THAT IT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO RESETTLE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD ALLOW BOAT REFUGEES TO DISEMBARK IN JAPAN AND

ENCOURAGE SHIPS TO CONTINUE PICKING THEM UP AT SEA RATHER THAN PASSING THEM BY BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN GETTING THEM TO DISEMBARK IN JAPAN. IN PAST, WE NOTE FROM REF C, THERE HAD BEEN REPORT THAT OF 48 SHIPS BRINGING BOAT REFUGEES TO JAPAN, THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES IN TIME. WE HOPED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE IN THE FUTURE.

3. FOLLOWING UP EA DEPUTY OAKLEY'S DISCUSSION IN REF B OF GOJ PLEDGE OF DOLLARS 10 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR, WE REITERATED THAT MOST PRESSING UNHCR NEED IS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS NOW TO HELP COVER SHORTFALL IN ITS CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. ASAMI RESPONDED THAT GOJ HAD DECIDED THAT DOLLARS 10 MILLION WAS FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT AND NOT TEMPORARY CARE AND MAINTEN- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANCE OF REFUGEES NOW IN COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM. WE NOTED THAT THAI HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL NOT BEGIN PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND UNTIL COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL ASYLUM ACCEPT SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF OVER 100,000 REFUGEES NOW IN THAILAND. SINCE PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN THAILAND TO WHICH GOJ, USG, UNHCR, AND OTHERS COULD CONTRIBUTE IS NOT LIKELY TO COME INTO BEING ANY TIME SOON, WE HOPE GOJ WILL BE WILLING TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS DOLLARS 10 MILLION TO UNHCR TO MEET URGENT NEEDS OF INDOCHINESE PROGRAM. WE ADDED THAT CURRENT UNHCR BUDGET IS USED NOT ONLY TO FEED, HOUSE, CLOTHE, AND PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO REFUGEES IN COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM BUT ALSO TO PAY TRANSPORTION COSTS FOR MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO SOME COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT, E.G., FRANCE. THUS BY CONTRIBUTING TO CURRENT UNHCR BUDGET, GOJ COULD IN FACT BE PROVIDING SOME FUNDS TOWARDS PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. ASAMI PROMISED TO REPORT ON VIEWS OF GOJ. VANCE

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